



BOTULINUM TOXIN

Agent Overview:	Botulinum Toxin is a toxin produced by the bacterium, <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> , an anaerobic gram positive, spore-forming rod.
Lab Specimen Submittal:	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, DPHL director, Christina Pleasanton, DPHL deputy director, or Dr. Jack Liou, bioterrorism coordinator.
Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:	<p>Enema fluid: Collect 20 cc of fluid. Purge with a minimal amount of sterile, non-bacteriostatic water to minimize dilution of toxin.</p> <p>Food Sample: Collect 10-50 g. Submit food in original container. Place each container into leakproof, sealed transport device.</p> <p>Nasal swab: For suspected aerosolized release, collect swabs for <i>C. botulinum</i> culture and serum for toxin testing.</p> <p>Serum: Collect 10 cc of serum (red/black top tube).</p> <p>Stool: Collect 10-50 g of stool into a sterile, leakproof container.</p> <p>Other: In an intentional release, collecting environmental surface samples on swabs for toxin analysis may be useful.</p>
Packaging Instructions:	<p>Clinical specimens must be in unbreakable double containers.</p> <p>Manipulation of specimen material possibly containing toxin should be avoided, as botulinum toxin is very poisonous.</p> <p>DPHL will ship specimens to a reference laboratory for testing.</p>
Receiving Specimens at DPHL:	Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must present ID and have proper forms completed.
Handling of Specimens:	Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens and materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. Environmental samples are kept at room temperature and clinical specimens at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.
Reporting Results:	Reference laboratory will notify DPHL as soon as possible.
Contact Information:	Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL director, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).